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Weatherman

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(54) **MODULAR SURVIVAL CANVAS FOR OUTDOOR SHELTER**

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E04H 15/30 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***E04H 15/30*** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC E04H 15/30; E04H 15/00; E04H 15/24
See application file for complete search history.

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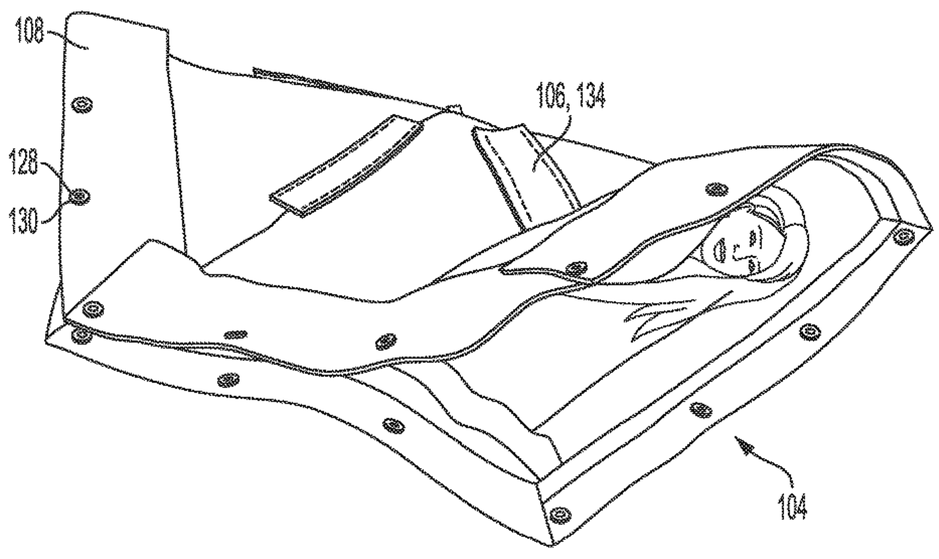
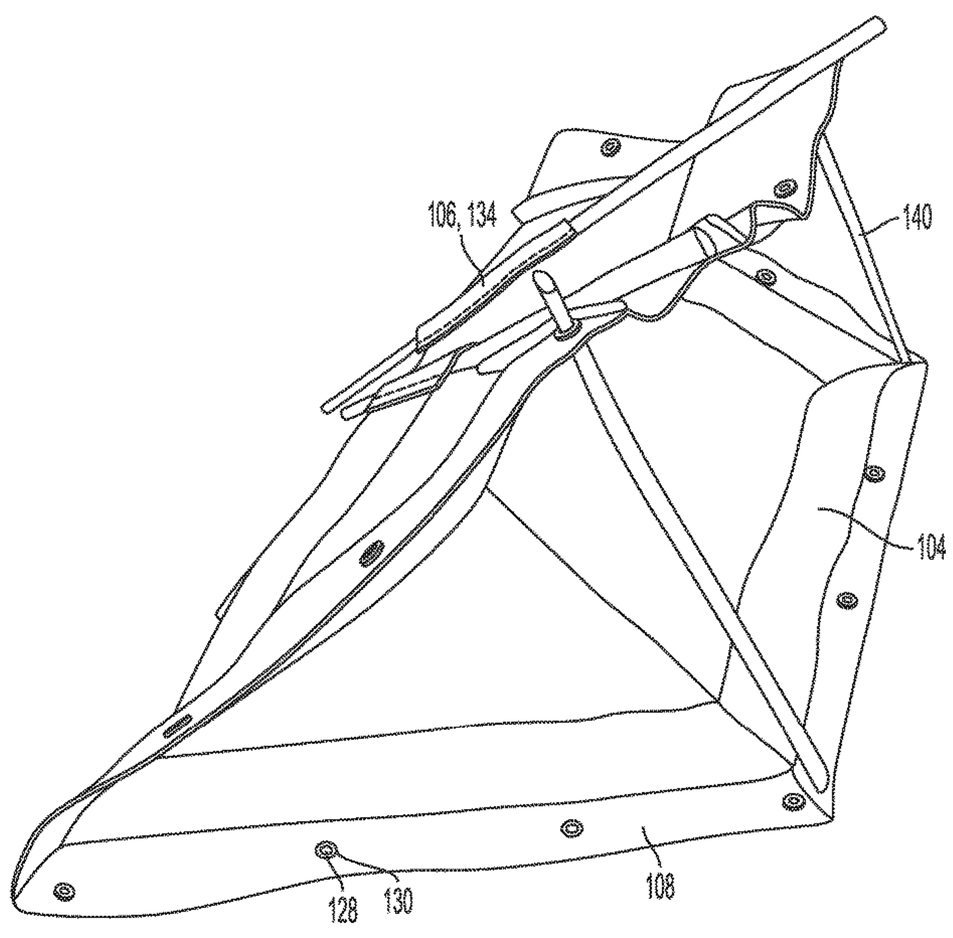
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A modular recreational and/or survival canvases are disclosed. Each canvas may be used alone or in combination with other canvases to provide shelter. Each canvas includes a base substrate including a plurality of fastener, a plurality of sleeves, and an outer fringe. In a refinement, the canvas may be of a shape such as a hexagon with alternating fasteners along its perimeter such that it may cooperate with one or more other modular canvases to form larger shelters. In one or more embodiments, the canvases may be combined with a construction block and one or more stakes.

14 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets





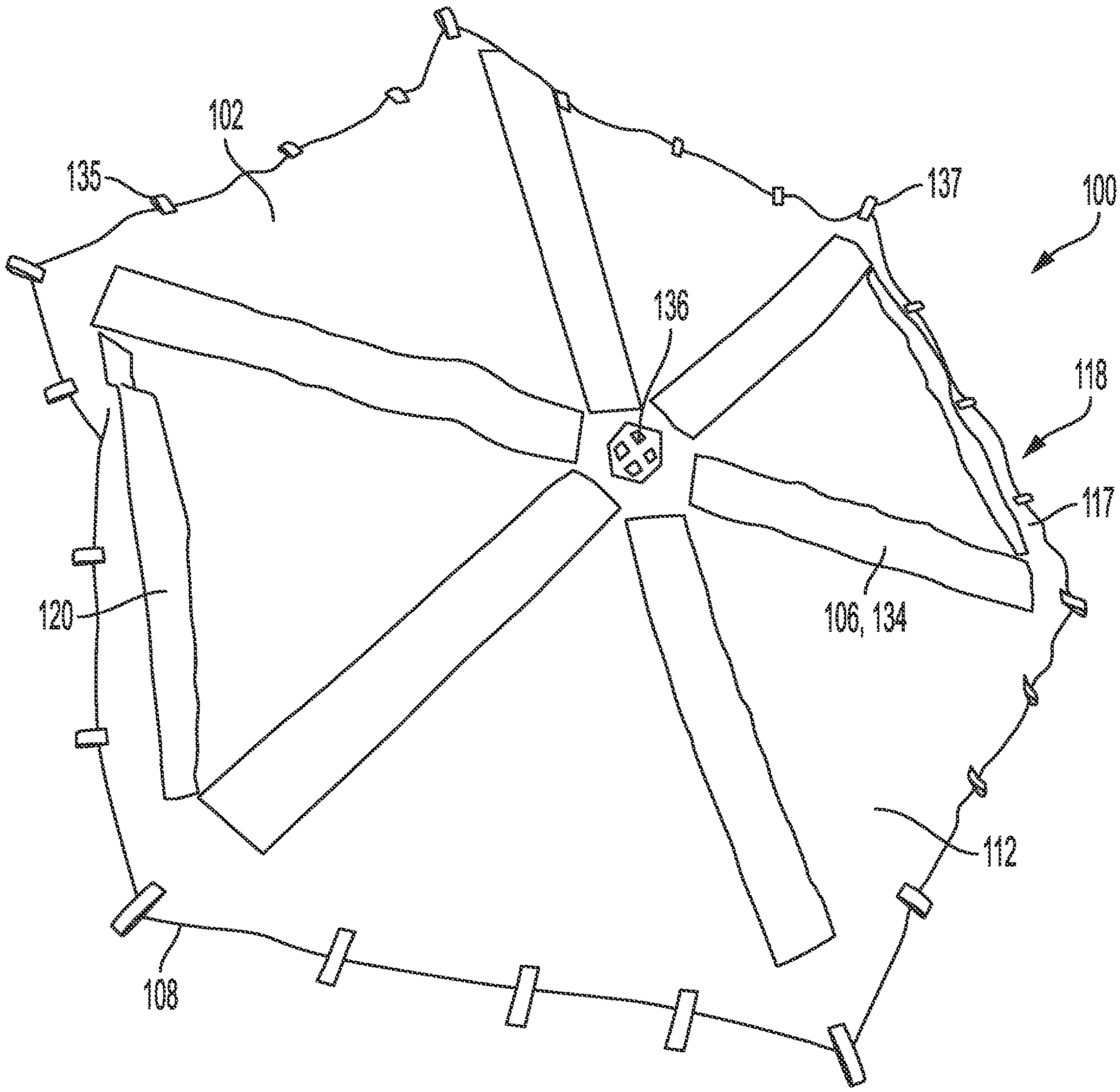


FIG. 1A

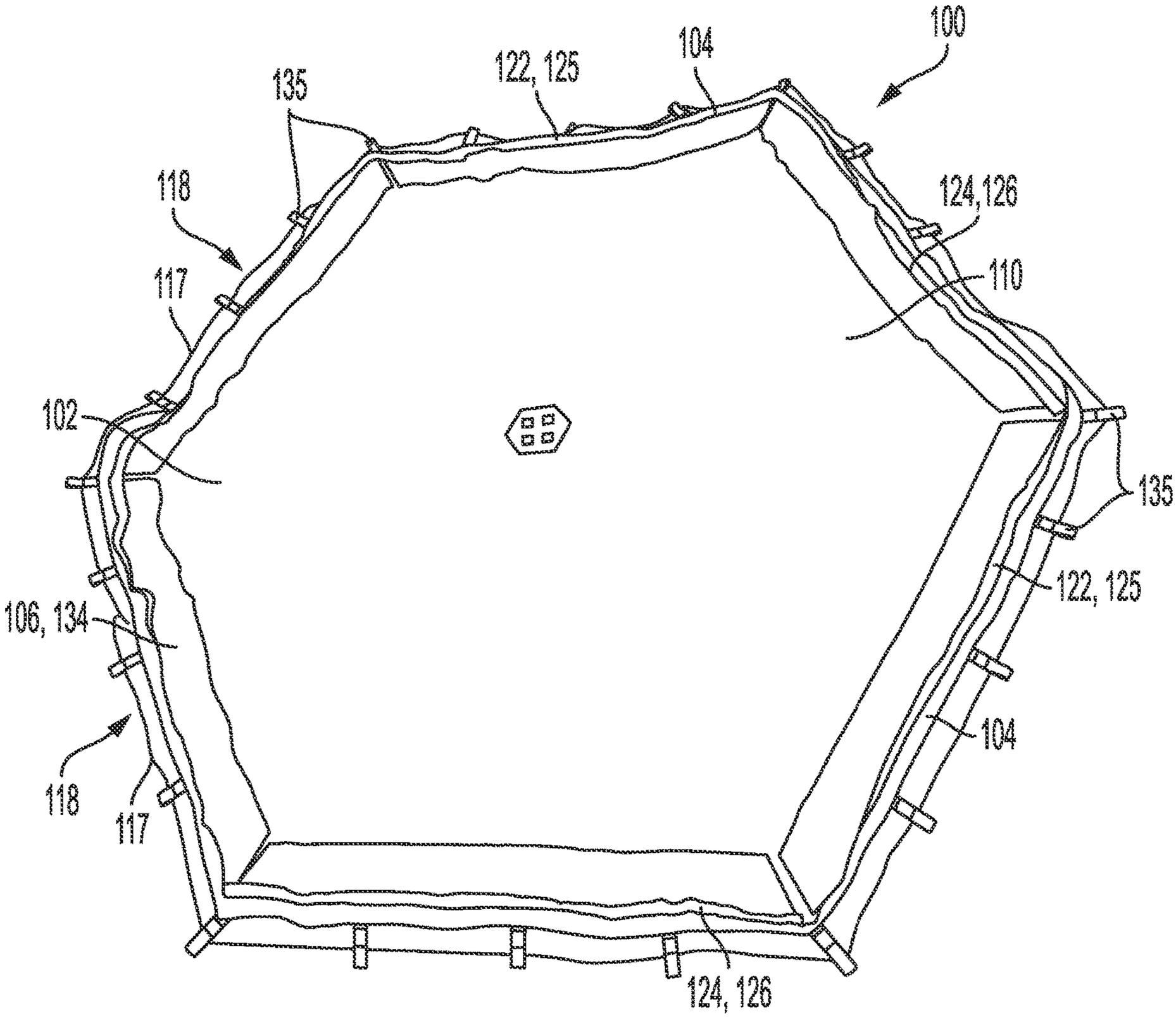

100
104
122, 125
135
118
124,126
110
117
102
135
122, 125
106, 134
104
118
117
124, 126

FIG. 1B

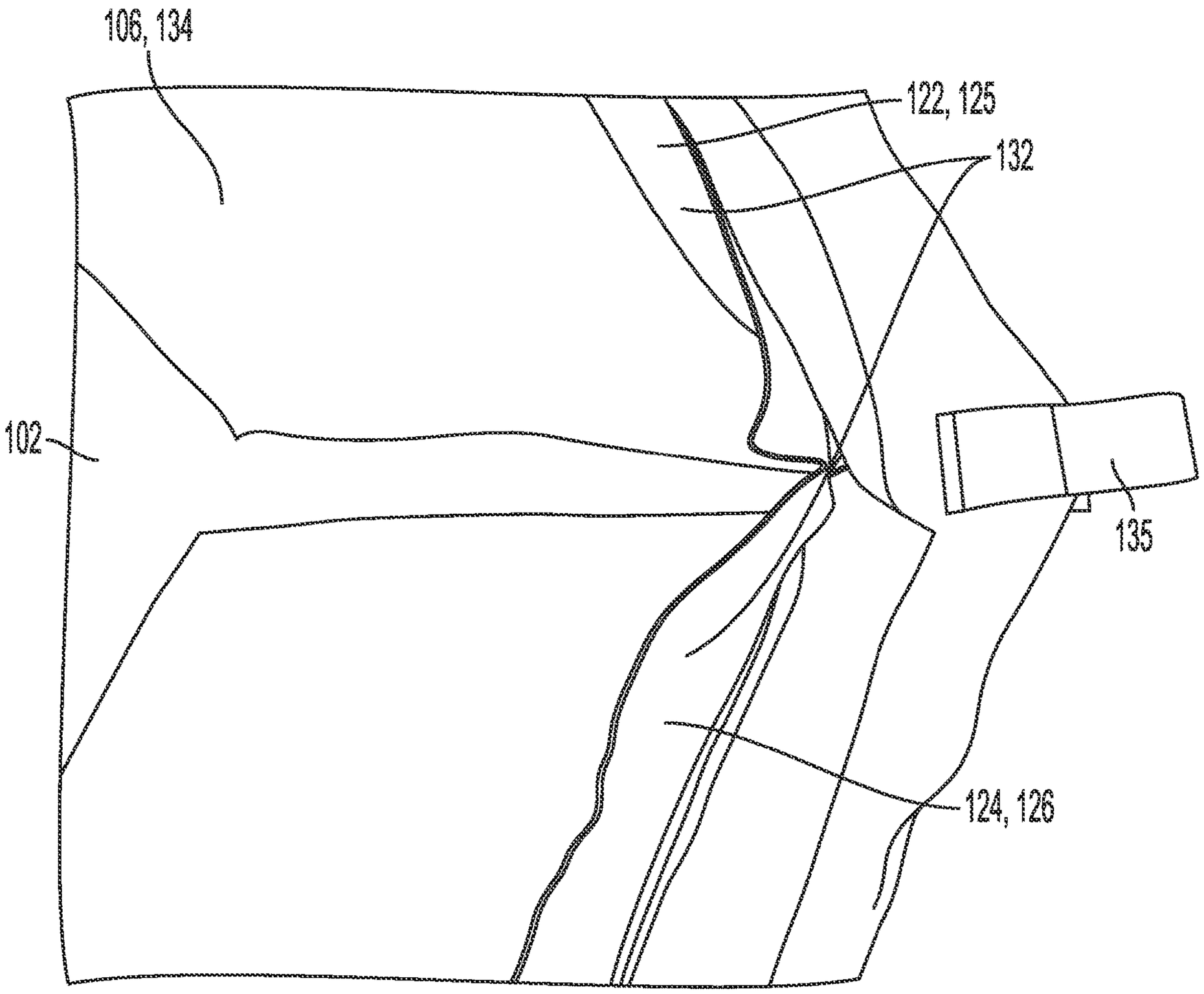


FIG. 1C

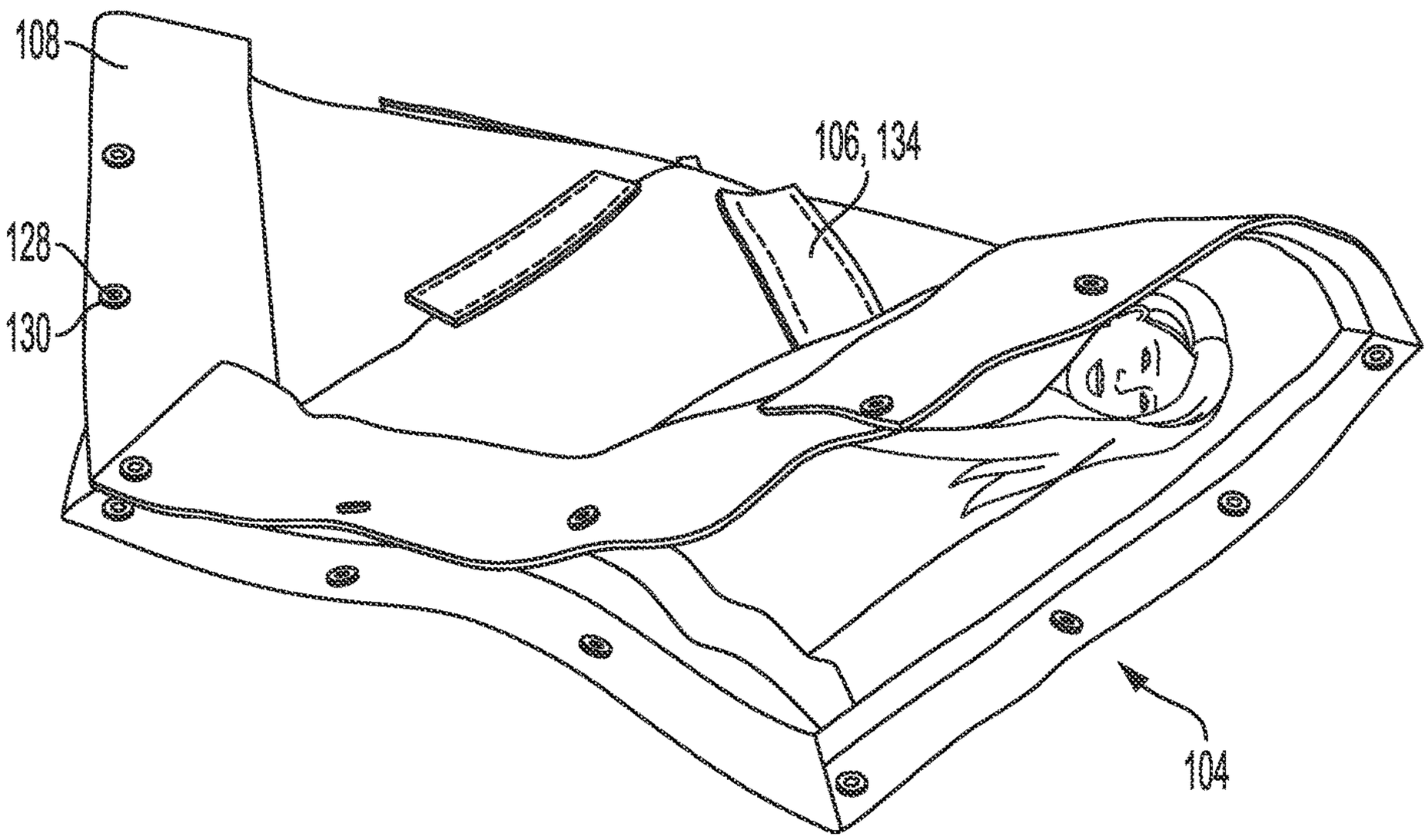


FIG. 2A

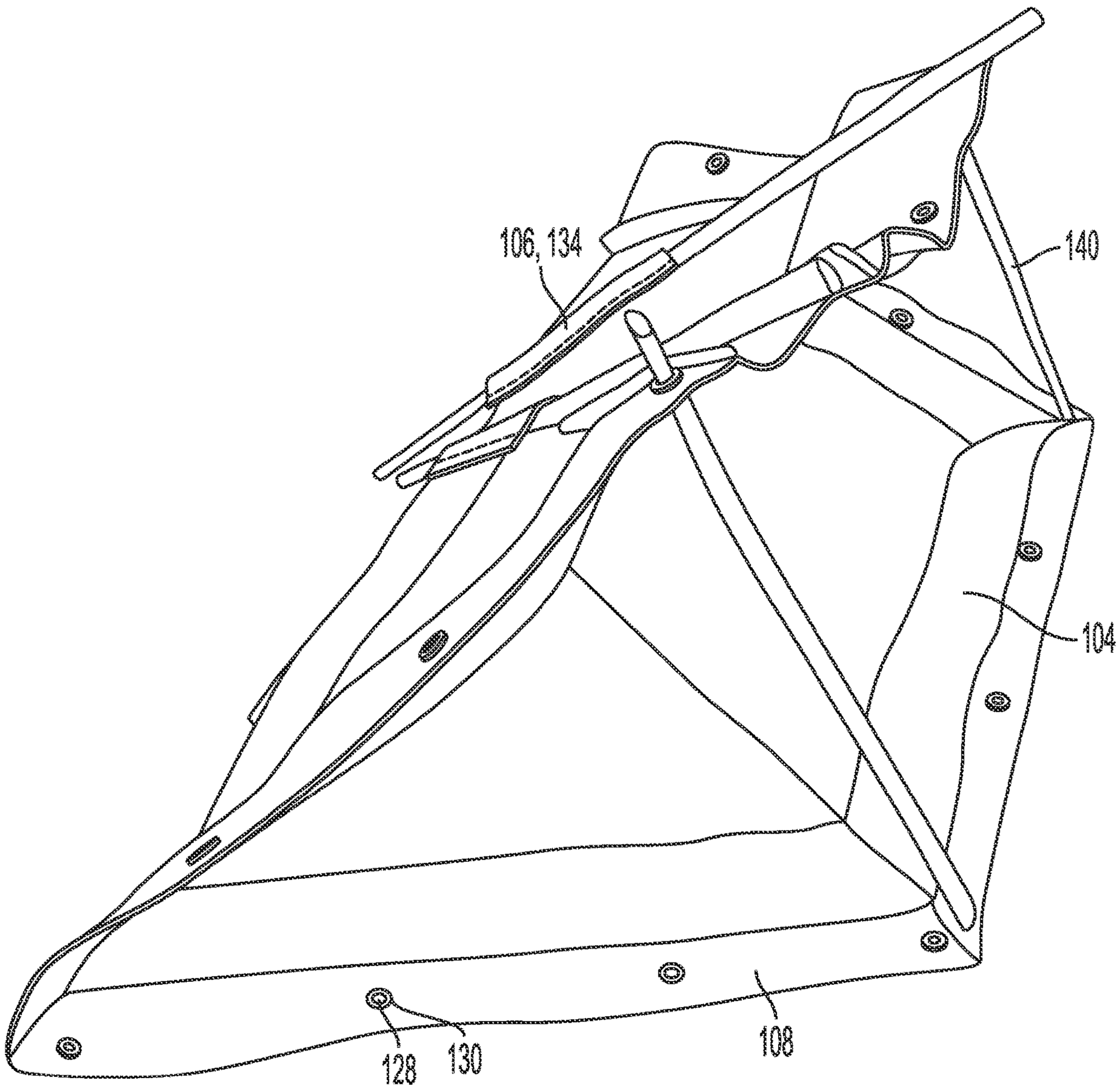


FIG. 2B

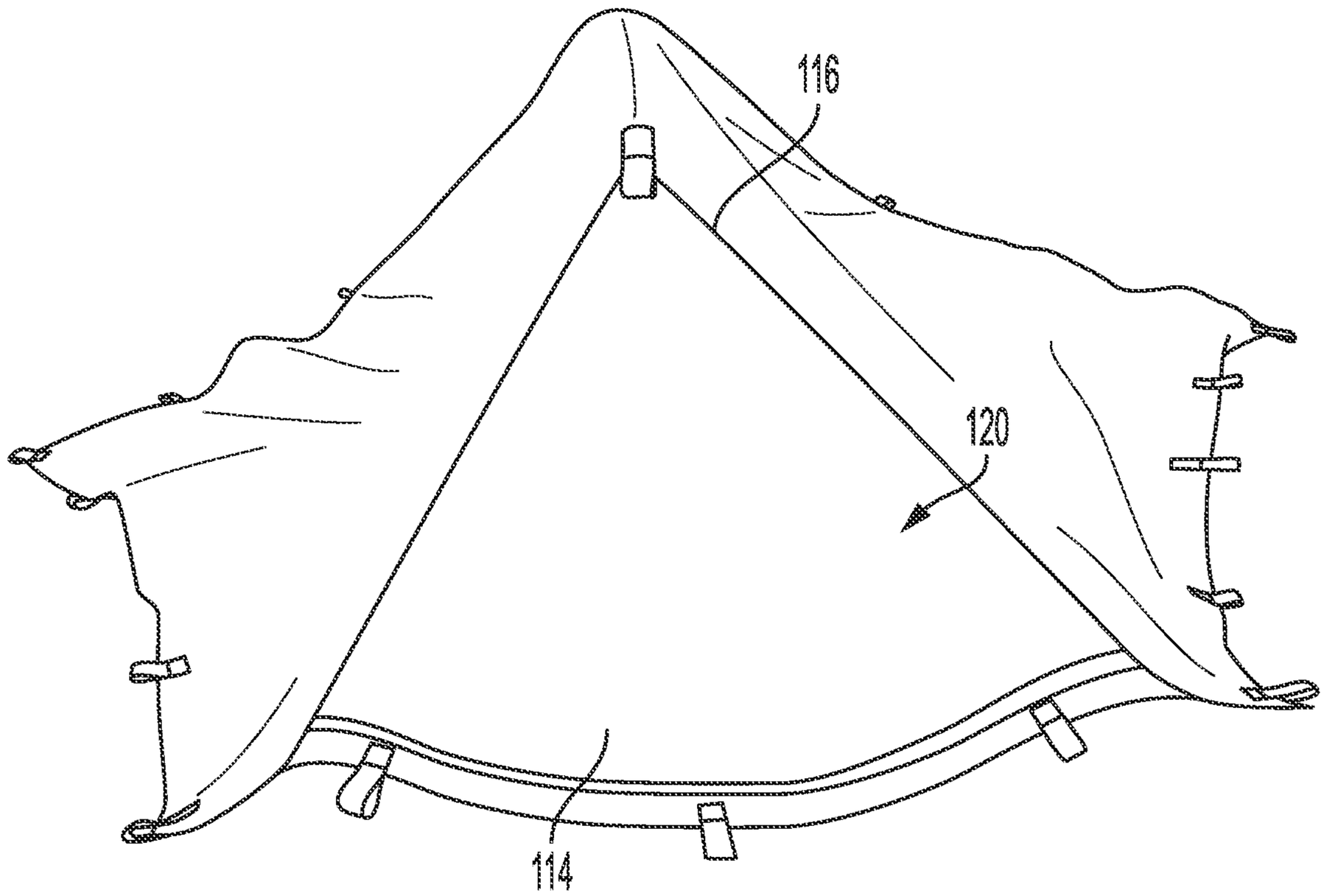


FIG. 2C

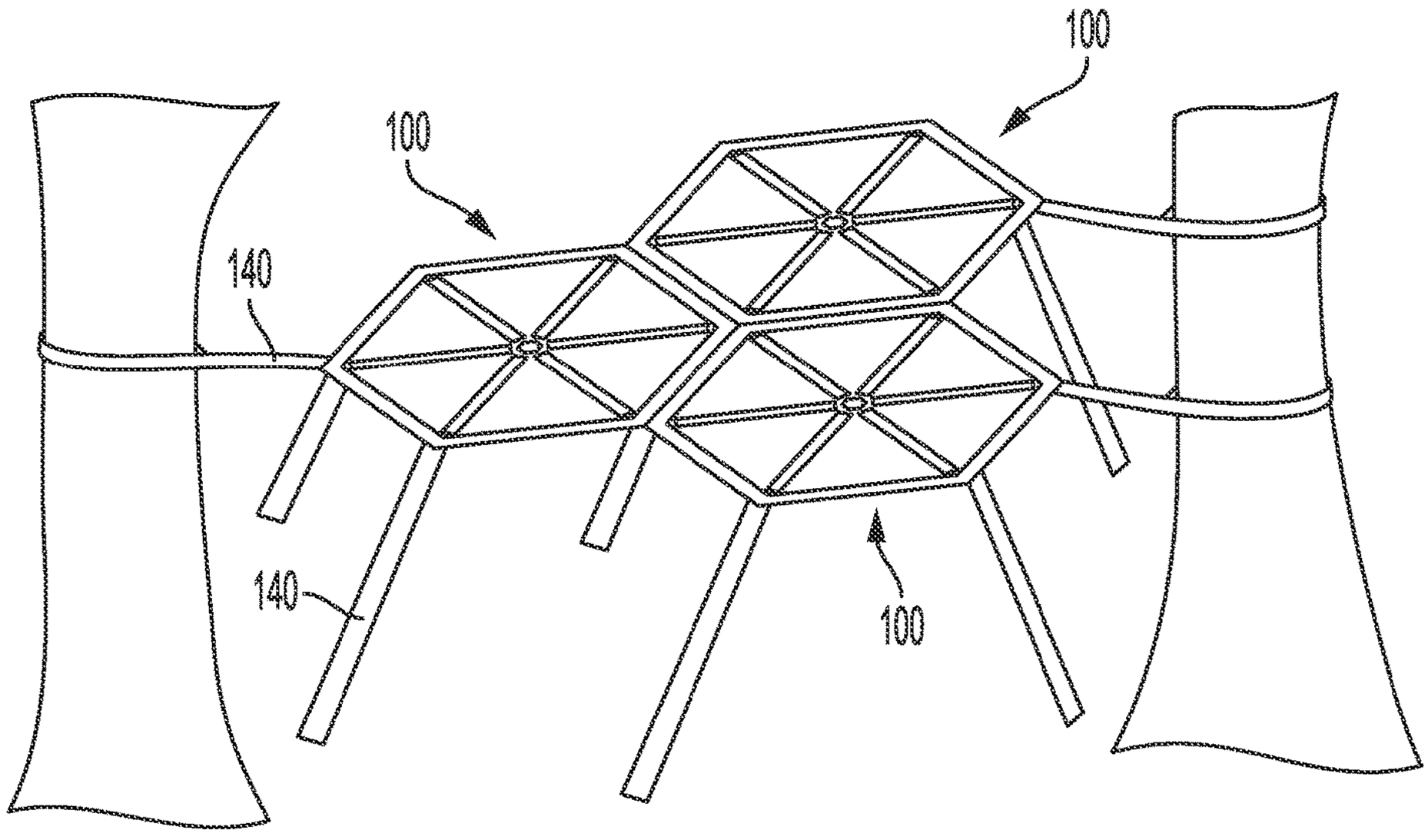


FIG. 2D

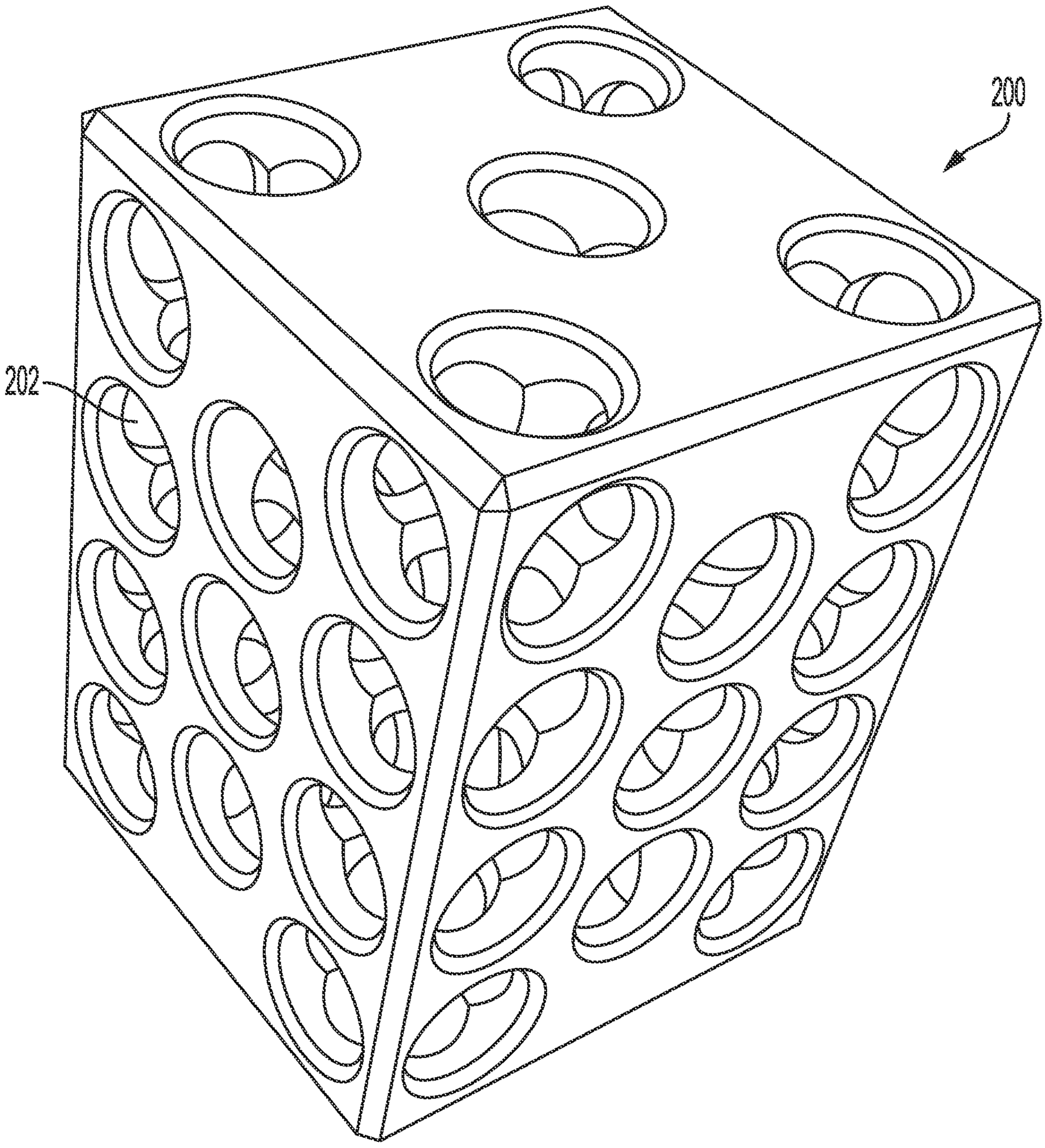


FIG. 3A

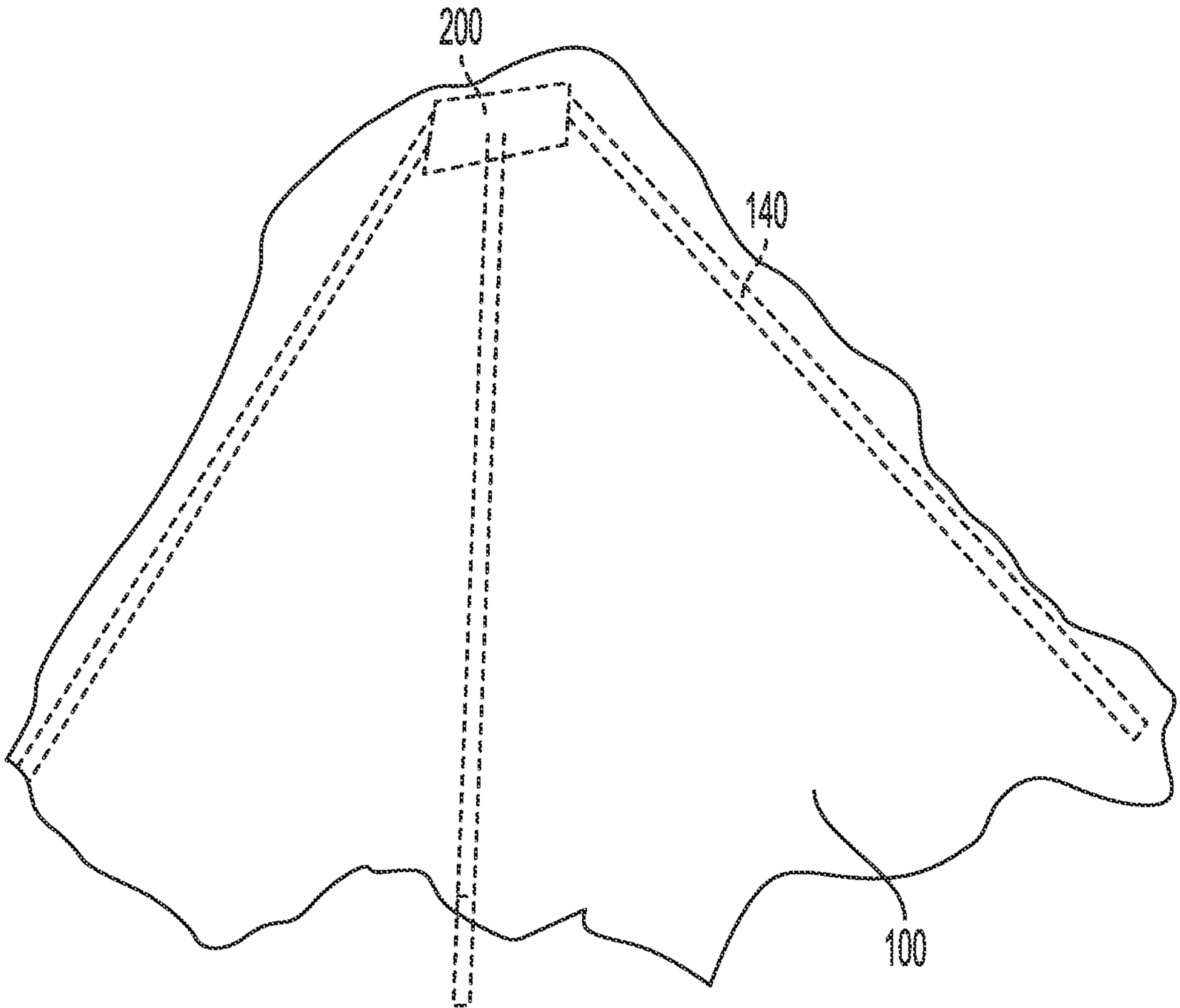


FIG. 3B

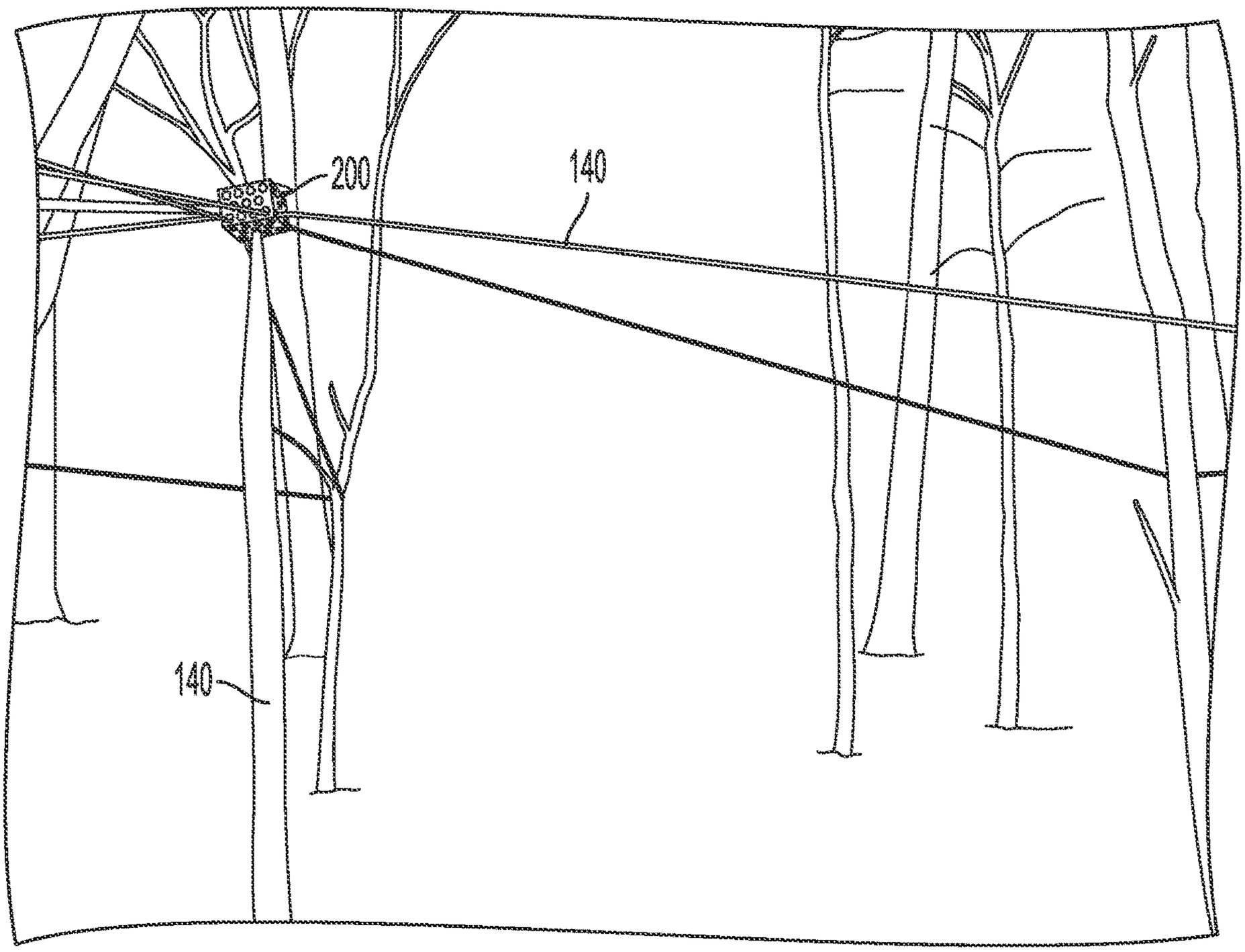


FIG. 3C

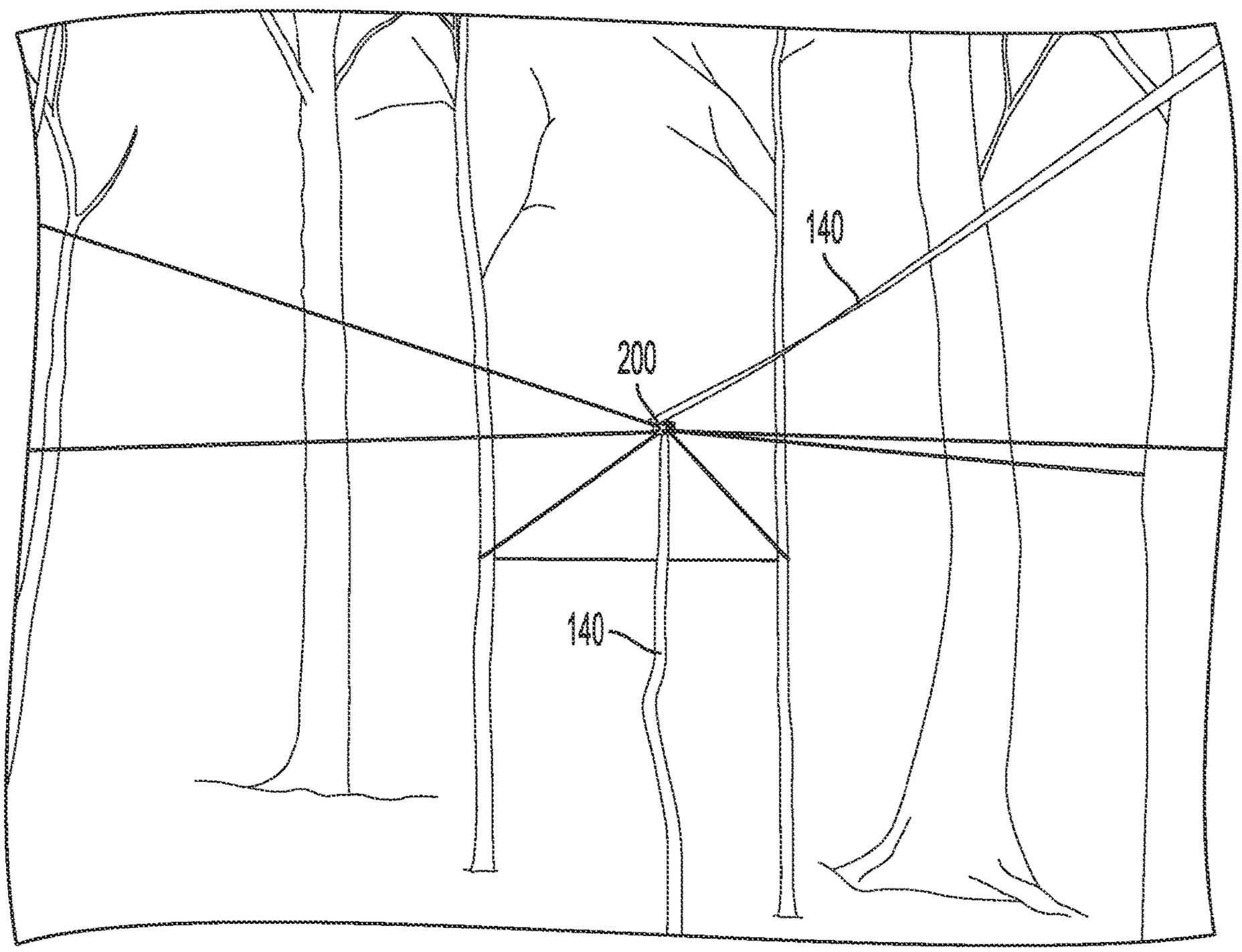


FIG. 3D

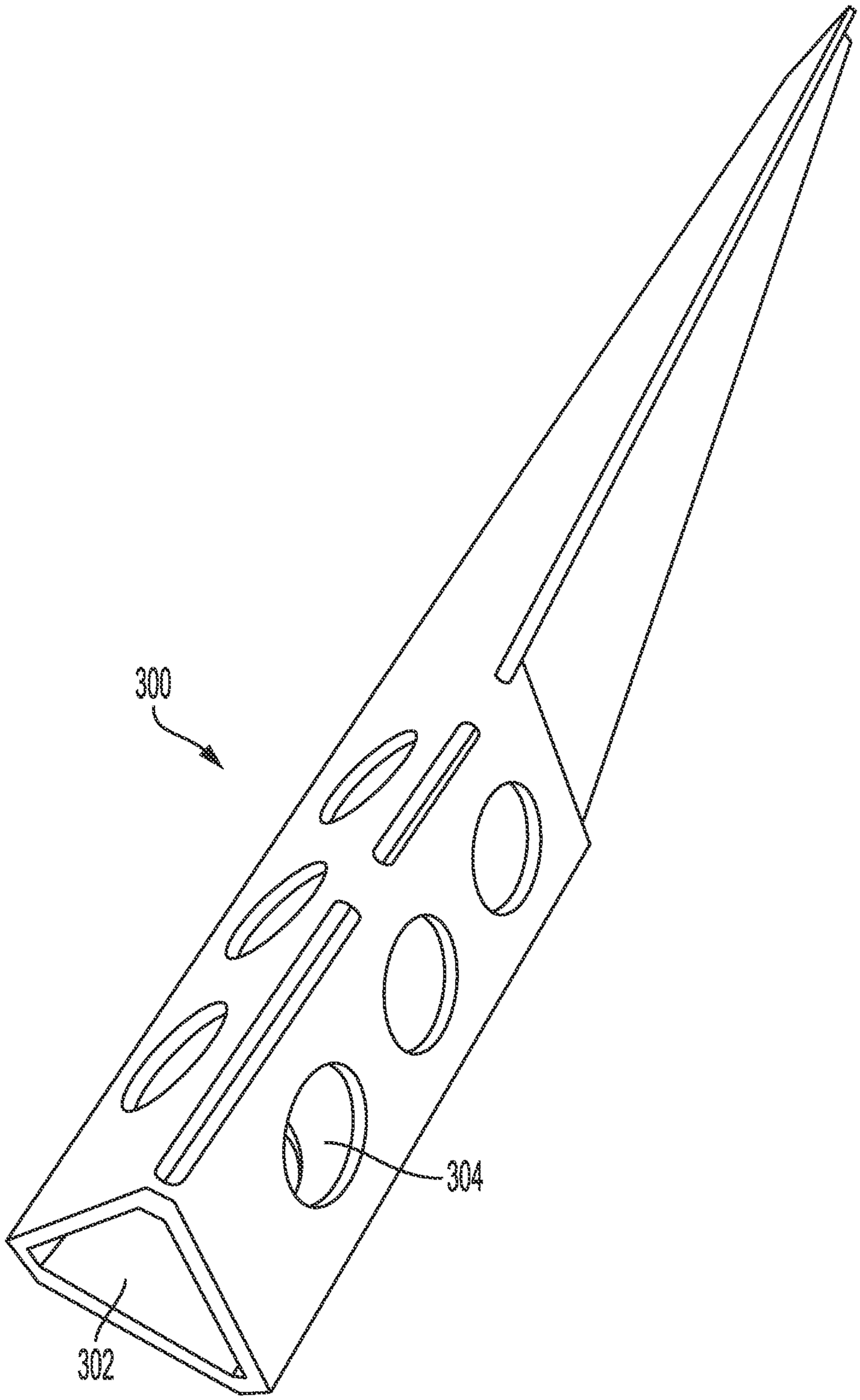


FIG. 4A

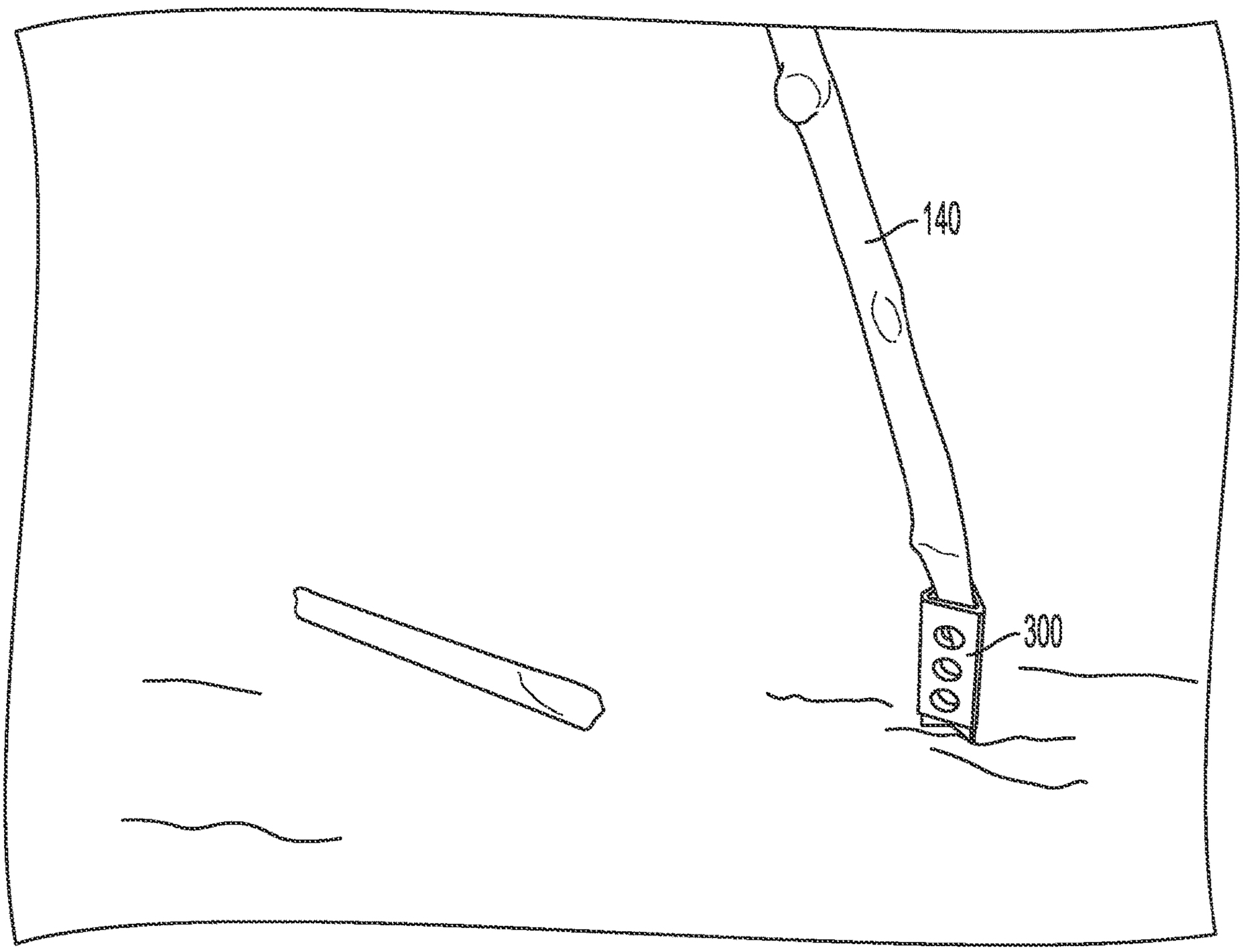


FIG. 4B

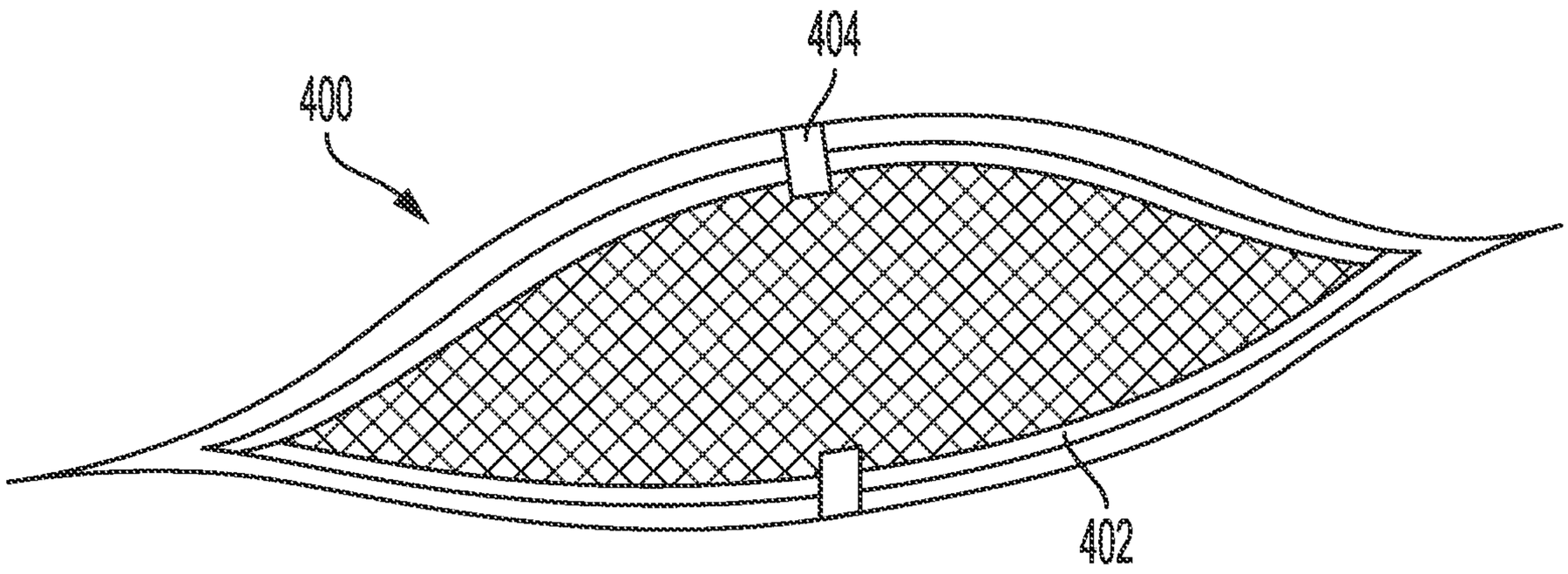


FIG. 5

MODULAR SURVIVAL CANVAS FOR OUTDOOR SHELTER

TECHNICAL FIELD

In at least one aspect, the present invention relates to a modular canvas for enacting a shelter or protection while sleeping in the outdoors.

BACKGROUND

Adventurers, hunters, and survivalists seek thrilling recreational activities in rugged, dangerous and remote areas that lack common amenities and basic housing. Similarly, military personnel may be required to survive in remote and dangerous areas with limited resources. Tents and tarps may be employed as a temporary shelter while in these remote location. But tents may by add unnecessary weight, take up limited cargo volume, and lack flexibility. For example, tents are not modular, scalable and may be unnecessarily complex. On the other end of the spectrum is tarps which are rudimentary and often a last resort. However, a tarp is not designed to provide a dry and warm environment in the bush. Tarps are also not easily assembled together with other tarps (i.e., modular or scalable) to create structures of the desired shape or size. Still further, the use of a tarp as a shelter may require the foresight to bring additional tools or to ensure resource to build a structure are in the remote location. Accordingly, a need for more flexible and effective survival/outdoor shelters or shelter systems exists.

SUMMARY

A modular recreational or survival canvas is disclosed. The canvas includes a base substrate, first and second fasteners, a plurality of sleeves and an outer fringe. The base substrate has a first side and a second side opposite the first side. The first and/or second side may have a water-resistant surface. The base substrate may be of a predetermined shape having an outer perimeter such as a hexagon. The first and second fasteners may be disposed along the outer perimeter such that a first end of the outer perimeter may be coupled to a second end of the outer perimeter. The plurality of sleeves may be disposed on the first and/or second side. The outer fringe may be coupled to and disposed along the outer perimeter. The outer fringe may define a plurality of orifices.

A modular survival shelter system is disclosed. The shelter system may include one or more water-resistant canvases, a construction block and one or more stakes. Each canvas may include a base substrate having a first side and a second side opposite the first side. The base substrate may have a polygonal shape defining an outer edge portion. Each canvas may also include an outer skirt coupled to and disposed along the outer edge portion. The outer skirt may include a plurality of fasteners. Each canvas may also include a second plurality of fasteners. The second plurality of fasteners may be disposed on the second side along the outer edge portion such that a first section of the outer edge portion may be coupled to a second section of the outer edge portion. Each canvas may also include a plurality of sleeves disposed on the second side. The construction block may include a first plurality of apertures. Each stake may include a second plurality of apertures such that the block and one or more stakes may be configured to provide a support structure or frame for the one or more water-resistant canvas when used in combination with one or more rod structures or cordage.

A modular shelter system is disclosed. The system includes a plurality of canvases. Each canvas includes a substrate having an outer surface and an inner surface opposite the outer surface. Each canvas includes a first fastener along the outer periphery of the inner surface such that it is configured to be coupled to one or more other canvases. The inner and outer surfaces are water resistant. Each canvas also includes a fringe along the outer periphery. The fringe includes a plurality of second fasteners such that each canvas is configured to be coupled to at least two other canvases.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1**A is a first side of a modular survival canvas and FIG. **1**B is a second side of the modular survival canvas.

FIG. **1**C is a portion of the canvas having a flap.

FIGS. **2**A-C are various uses of the modular survival canvas of FIGS. **1**A-B.

FIG. **2**D is a large shelter constructed from a plurality of modular survival canvases coupled together.

FIG. **3**A is a perspective view of a construction block and FIG. **3**B is a perspective view of a construction block being used with the modular survival canvas of FIGS. **1**A-B.

FIGS. **3**C-D are perspective views of the construction block being used with stick, cordage and vegetation to provide a frame for the canvas.

FIG. **4**A is a perspective view of a stake and FIG. **4**B is the stack being used with a stick.

FIG. **5** is a perspective view of a net.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Reference will now be made in detail to presently preferred embodiments and methods of the present invention, which constitute the best modes of practicing the invention presently known to the inventor. The figures are not necessarily to scale. However, it is to be understood that the disclosed embodiments are merely exemplary of the invention that may be embodied in various and alternative forms. Therefore, specific details disclosed herein are not to be interpreted as limiting, but merely as a representative basis for any aspect of the invention and/or as a representative basis for teaching one skilled in the art to variously employ the present invention.

Except in the examples, or where otherwise expressly indicated, all numerical quantities in this description indicating amounts are to be understood as modified by the word "about" in describing the broadest scope of the invention. Practice within the numerical limits stated is generally preferred. Also, unless expressly stated to the contrary: percent, "parts of," and ratio values are by weight. The description of a group or class as suitable or preferred for a given purpose in connection with the invention implies that mixtures of any two or more of the members of the group or class are equally suitable or preferred. The first definition of an acronym or other abbreviation applies to all subsequent uses herein of the same abbreviation and applies mutatis mutandis to normal grammatical variations of the initially defined abbreviation. Unless expressly stated to the contrary, measurement of a property is determined by the same technique as previously or later referenced for the same property.

It must also be noted that, as used in the specification and the appended claims, the singular form "a," "an," and "the" comprise plural referents unless the context clearly indicates

otherwise. For example, reference to a component in the singular is intended to comprise a plurality of components.

The phrase "composed of" means "including" or "comprising." Typically, this phrase is used to denote that an object is formed from a material.

The term "comprising" is synonymous with "including," "having," "containing," or "characterized by." These terms are inclusive and open-ended and do not exclude additional, unrecited elements or method steps.

The phrase "consisting of" excludes any element, step, or ingredient not specified in the claim. When this phrase appears in a clause of the body of a claim, rather than immediately following the preamble, it limits only the element set forth in that clause; other elements are not excluded from the claim as a whole.

The phrase "consisting essentially of" limits the scope of a claim to the specified materials or steps, plus those that do not materially affect the basic and novel characteristic(s) of the claimed subject matter.

With respect to the terms "comprising," "consisting of," and "consisting essentially of," where one of these three terms is used herein, the presently disclosed and claimed subject matter can include the use of either of the other two terms.

The term "substantially," "generally," or "about" may be used herein to describe disclosed or claimed embodiments. The term "substantially" may modify a value or relative characteristic disclosed or claimed in the present disclosure. In such instances, "substantially" may signify that the value or relative characteristic it modifies is within ±0%, 0.1%, 0.5%, 1%, 2%, 3%, 4%, 5% or 10% of the value or relative characteristic.

It should also be appreciated that integer ranges explicitly include all intervening integers. For example, the integer range 1-10 explicitly includes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. Similarly, the range 1 to 100 includes 1, 2, 3, 4 . . . 97, 98, 99, 100. Similarly, when any range is called for, intervening numbers that are increments of the difference between the upper limit and the lower limit divided by 10 can be taken as alternative upper or lower limits. For example, if the range is 1.1. to 2.1 the following numbers 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, and 2.0 can be selected as lower or upper limits.

Throughout this application, where publications are referenced, the disclosures of these publications in their entireties are hereby incorporated by reference into this application to more fully describe the state of the art to which this invention pertains.

Referring to FIGS. **1**A-B, a modular recreational/survival canvas **100** is disclosed. The canvas **100** may include a base substrate **102**, a plurality of fasteners **104**, a plurality of construction sleeves **106**, and an outer fringe **108**. The canvas **100**/base substrate **102** may have a first surface **110** (shown in FIG. **1**B) and a second surface **112** (shown in FIG. **1**A) opposite the first surface **110**. The recreational/survival canvas **100** may be used as bivouac as shown in FIG. **2**A, a small shelter as shown in FIG. **2**B, another small shelter between multiple layers of the base substrate **102** as shown in FIG. **2**C, or a medium/large shelter by combining with additional recreational/survival canvases. The canvas **100** may also be used as a hammock or a cargo net.

The base substrate **102** includes first and second surfaces **110**, **112** or in other words inner and outer surfaces. The surfaces may be water-resistant. The base substrate **102** may include one or more deformable layer such as fabric layers. For example, the layers may be a ripstop (i.e., woven) nylon, a polyester, and/or a polyurethane. The layers may be at least 100 denier, or more preferably at least 150 denier, or even more preferably at least 200 denier. In a variation, a single layer maybe used such that the overall weight of the canvas **100** is reduced. In another variation, a plurality of layers such as two layers (i.e., first layer **114** and second layer **116**) may be used as the base substrate **102**. The plurality of layers may be joined at, along or proximate to the edge **117** and/or the outer perimeter/periphery portion **118** of the layers. In a refinement, the base substrate **102** may include an entryway **120** therebetween. The entryway **120** may be configured to provide access between the first and second layers **114**, **116**. The entryway **120** may be opened and closed. For example, the entryway **120** may be closed via Velcro® or a zipper. Thus, a user **10** may seek shelter such as warmth and/or dryness between the first and second layers **114**, **116**.

The base substrate **102** may be any suitable shape and size. In a variation, the predetermined shape may be polygonal and is the primary shape and size of the canvas **100**. A polygonal shape may more easily be combined with other canvases. For example, a triangular canvas may more easily be coupled to three other canvases along each side and a hexagonal canvas (as in the figures) may be more easily coupled to six other canvases. The canvas may have a max ferret diameter of 2 to 14 feet, or more preferably 4 to 12 feet, or even more preferably 6-10 feet. For example, in the hexagonal shape, the base substrate may be 8 feet from one corner to the opposite corner.

The canvases may be coupled via a fastener or a plurality of fasteners such as a hook, loop, hook and loop tape (hereinafter referred to solely as Velcro®), orifice, grommet, cordage, zipper, any other suitable fastener, or a combination thereof. For example, the canvas **100** may include at least first and second fasteners **122** and **124**. In yet another variation, the canvas **100** may include a third fastener. One or more fasteners may be located on the base substrate **102**, peripheral portion **118** of the base substrate **102**, or the fringe **108**. In a variation, one or more fasteners may be located on the first surface **110**, second surface **112** or a combination thereof.

In a refinement, the fastener may be Velcro®. If the fastener includes two components such as a male and female component, a hook and loop, or Velcro®. The fastener may alternate between the two components along the perimeter portion **118**. For example, each side of the hexagonal shape may alternate between the hook segment **125** of Velcro® and the loop segment **126** of Velcro®. In a refinement, half of the perimeter may be the hook segment and half may be the loop segment. The Velcro® tape may be 0.1 to 5 inches wide, or more preferably 0.5 to 3 inches wide, or even more preferably 0.5 to 1.5 inches wide. For example, Velcro® tape may be 1-inch wide. In a refinement, the fastener may include 1-10 strips of Velcro® (e.g., one strip, two strips, three strips, four strips, five strips, or more). For example, two 1-inch strips of Velcro® may be used.

The fastener may also be orifices **128**. The orifices **128** may include grommets **130**. In a refinement, a plurality of orifices **128** and/or grommets **130** may be used and may be disposed along the fringe **108**. For example, three orifices with grommets therein may be disposed along each side of the canvas **100** and an orifice with a grommet therein may be disposed at each corner.

The fasteners may be loops such as fabric loops **135**. In a variation, the canvas **100** may include a plurality of fabric loops **135**. The loops **135** may be located on the near the outer edge of the fringe **108** or proximate thereto. For example, the canvas **100** may include a fabric loop **135** or a plurality of fabric loops **135** (e.g., three) on each side. Fabric

loops **135** may also be disposed at each corner. In yet another example, a loop such as a crosshatch loop **136** may be located at the center of the base substrate **102** on the first surface **110**, second surface **112**, or both.

Each corner may also include a pull tab **137** for easier assembly and disassembly. Pull tabs **137** may facilitate opening, closing, assembling, and/or disassembling the canvas **100** during low light conditions and suboptimal conditions. The pull tab **137** may also include a pocket configured to hold the end of a stick, bar, cane, rod, or pole. The sticks, bars, canes, rods, or poles may be natural and found in the environment or manufactured for that particular purpose. For example, the poles may be configured to provide a geometric shape when assembled together. Portions of the poles may include bends or the poles may be straight.

In yet another embodiment, the base substrate **102** may include a flap **132** such that a fastener or a portion thereof may be disposed on the flap **132**, as shown in FIG. **1**C. The flap add versatility to the canvas **100** when coupled to another canvas or another section of the canvas **100**. The flap may also act to facilitate an overlap that reduces drafts and/or breezes and leaks that may let in water. The flap may extend from the first and/or second surface **110**, **112**.

The fringe **108** may be a fringe, skirt, hem, brim or a combination thereof. The fringe **108** may be disposed along the outer edge of the base substrate **102**. In other words, the fringe **108** may be joined and/or connected to the base substrate **102** such that it protects the edge **118** of the base substrate **102**. In a refinement, the fringe **108** may be made of material that is more durable and/or stronger material than the base substrate **102**. For example, the fringe may have a tensile strength of at least 500 lbs/in, more preferably 1000 lbs/in, or even more preferably 3000 lbs/in. For example, the fringe **108** may be made of a seatbelt material. A seatbelt material is a webbing that is woven. The seatbelt material may also have run-proof selvedges. One or more fasteners such as a plurality of fasteners should be disposed in and/or on the fringe **108**. In one or more embodiments, the fringe may be 0.1 to 10 inches, or more preferably 1 to 5 inches, or even more preferably, 2 to 3 inches wide. For example, the fringe may be 2.5 inches wide.

The canvas **100** may also include one or more sleeves **134**. The one or more sleeves **134** may be used to provide structural support for building and/or constructing structures such as shelters. For example, a stick, bar, cane, rod, pole, or cordage **140** may be placed through a sleeve to support a structure. For example, the canvas **100** may include a plurality of sleeves. The sleeves may be located on the first surface, the second surface or a combination thereof. The plurality of sleeves may be disposed in a pattern such as the spokes on a wheel. In a refinement, the sleeves may be closer to the center of the base substrate **102** than the fringe **108** and fasteners. Alternatively, or in combination the sleeves may be disposed along the edges of the base substrate **102** such as at the perimeter portion **108**. The sleeves **134** may also be made of a seatbelt material. The sleeves may for example be about 0.1 to 8 inches, more preferably, 0.5 to 5 inches, or even more preferably 1 to 3 inches wide. The sleeves may also be 0.1 to 96 inches, or more preferably 12 to 84 inches, or even more preferably 36 to 62 inches long. For example, the sleeves may be 2×48 inches.

The canvas **100** may colored or have a design based on its intended purpose. For example, a survival canvas **100** may be hunter's orange such that it is easily spotted from a distance such as by search and rescue. Alternatively, the survival canvas may have a camouflage coloring and design such that it can be used for hunting or the military. The canvas may also have indicia on it to facilitate its purpose. For example, the indicia may provide survival instructions such as seek shelter, find water, start a fire and/or how to build a shelter, find water, and/or how to start a fire.

A construction block **200** is disclosed, as shown in FIG. **3**A. The construction block **200** may be used in conjunction or with the canvas **100** to erect a structure such as a shelter as shown in FIG. **3**B. The construction block **200** may be used to assembly a frame such as with materials in environment, cordage, or a combination thereof as shown in FIGS. **3**C-D. The canvas **100** may than be drawn around the frame to provide a shelter. The construction block **200** may be but is not limited to a rectangular shape. The construction block **200** may include a plurality of apertures **202** or porous structure such that sticks, bars, canes, rods, poles, or cordage may be inserted through it to erect a frame. The apertures **202** may be the same size or different sizes. For example, the apertures **202** may be 0.1 to 1 inch, or more preferably 0.25 to 0.75 inches, or even more preferably 0.4 to 0.6 inches wide. In a refinement, the construction block **200** may have apertures on every surface or side. For example, a rectangular construction block **200** may have apertures on all six sides. The apertures on may be channels that provide passage through the construction block **200** such that sticks, bars, canes, rods, poles, or cordage may be passed through the construction block **200**. The construction block **200** may be made of stratified layer such as from additive manufacturing (e.g., **3**D printing). The construction block **200** may be made of plastic, metal, or wood. For example, the construction block **200** may be made of but is not limited to galvanized steel, stainless steel, polyvinyl alcohol, acrylonitrile butadiene styrene, polylactic acid, polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene (high or low density), polyvinyl chloride, polypropylene, or a combination thereof.

A stake **300** is disclosed, as shown in FIG. **4**A. The stake **300** may be 1 to 20 inches, more preferably 5 to 15, or even more preferably 8 to 10 inches long. The stake **300** may be hollow or have a hollow channel **302** to reduce its weight and facilitate construction. The hollow channel may have a width of 0.1 to 3 inches, or more preferably 0.25 to 2 inches, or even more preferably 0.5 to 1.5 inches. In a refinement, the hollow channel **302** may have a triangular profile such that each side is 0.1 to 3 inches wide, or more preferably 0.25 to 2 inches, or even more preferably 0.5 to 1.5 inches. For example, a stick, bar, cane, rod, pole, or cordage may be disposed in the hollow channel **302** of stake **300** as shown in FIG. **4**B. The stake **300** may be made such that it may be bent into shape forming multiple walls **304** defining the hollow channel **302**. The walls may have a width of 0.015625 to 0.5 inch, or more preferably 0.03125 to 0.25 inch or even more preferably 0.05 to 0.2 inch. The stake **300** may also include one or more apertures **304**. The apertures **304** may be 0.1 to 1 inch, or more preferably 0.25 to 0.75 inches, or even more preferably 0.4 to 0.6 inches wide. The apertures **304** may be the same of different sizes. The apertures **304** may also be the same or different size than the apertures **202**. If the apertures **304** are of the same or similar sizes to apertures **202** they may facilitate construction of structures. The stake **300** may be made of stratified layers such as from additive manufacturing or **3**D printing. The stake **300** may be made of plastic, metal, or wood. For example, the stake **300** may be made of but is not limited to galvanized steel, stainless steel, polyvinyl alcohol, acrylonitrile butadiene styrene, polylactic acid, polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene (high or low density), polyvinyl chlo-

ride, polypropylene, or a combination thereof. In a variation, the stake may be made by bending the material into the appropriate shape.

A net **400** (e.g., bug net) may be disclosed, as shown in FIG. **5**. The net **400** may include one or more fasteners **402** such as Velcro® segments configured to couple the net **400** to the canvas **100**. In a refinement, the net **400** may be eye-shaped such that it fits within the canvas **100** when used as bivouac as in FIG. **2**A or constructed like a taco as shown in FIG. **2**B. The net may be 12 to 72 inches, or more preferably 24 to 60 inches, or even more preferably 36 to 48 inches from point to point. The width between the vertices of the curved sides may be from 6 to 48 inches, or more preferably 12 to 36 inches, or more even preferably 15 to 27 inches. The net may further include pull tabs **404** such that they can be located by feel and easily pulled in the dark to decouple the net **400** from the canvas **100**.

A recreational or survival shelter system is disclosed. The system may include one or more canvases, one or more construction blocks, one or more stakes, one or more nets or a combination thereof. In a variation, the system may include a plurality of canvases. In yet another variation, a construction block may be included. In still another variation, three or more stakes may be included. In yet another variation, the system may include a net or plurality of nets.

A plurality of blocks, stakes, and canvases may provide endless versatility such as providing numerous shelters. For example, many small shelters or a large shelter with multiple compartments may be created. Further, the canvases, blocks, and stakes provide excellent scalability as, for example, camps grow, separate, and evolve.

While exemplary embodiments are described above, it is not intended that these embodiments describe all possible forms of the invention. Rather, the words used in the specification are words of description rather than limitation, and it is understood that various changes may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Additionally, the features of various implementing embodiments may be combined to form further embodiments of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A modular survival shelter system comprising:

one or more water-resistant canvases, each canvas including (i) a base substrate having a first side and a second side opposite the first side, the base substrate being polygonal and having an outer edge portion; (ii) an outer skirt coupled to and disposed along the outer edge portion, the outer skirt having a first plurality of fasteners; (iii) a second plurality of fasteners disposed on the second side along the outer edge portion such that a first section of the outer edge portion can be coupled to a second section of the outer edge portion; and (iv) a plurality of sleeves disposed on the second side;

a block having a first plurality of apertures; and

one or more stakes, each stake having a second plurality of apertures, wherein the block and one or more stakes are configured to provide a support structure for the one or more water-resistant canvases when used in combination with one or more rod structures or cordage.

2. The system of claim **1**, wherein each canvas includes first and second layers and a sealable entryway therebetween.

3. The system of claim **2**, wherein the first layer includes a water-resistant surface and the second layer is at least 200 denier.

4. The system of claim **3**, wherein each canvas includes a woven material.

5. The system of claim **1**, wherein each canvas is hexagonal.

6. The system of claim **1**, wherein the first and/or second fasteners are hook and loop fasteners.

7. The system of claim **1**, further comprising a net configured to be coupled to at least a portion of the first plurality of fasteners.

8. The system of claim **7**, wherein the net is eye-shaped.

9. The system of claim **8**, wherein the net includes a plurality of pull-tabs disposed on an edge of the net and configured to decouple the net from the canvas.

10. The system of claim **1**, wherein the first plurality of apertures is defined on each side of the block.

11. The system of claim **1**, wherein the stake is triangular and shaped and defines a hollow channel.

12. The system of claim **1**, wherein each canvas includes a flap extending from the second side and at least a portion of the second plurality of fastener is disposed on the flap.

13. The system of claim **1**, wherein each canvas is configured to be coupled to six other canvases.

14. The system of claim **1**, wherein the second plurality of fasteners is further from the center of the canvas than the plurality of sleeves.

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